

**SALINA ARTS & HUMANITIES COMMISSION**  
**January 17, 2007**

The monthly meeting of the Salina Arts and Humanities Commission was held at the Smoky Hill Museum Community Room at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 17, 2007. In attendance were Marilyn Benyshek, Shirley Braxton, Shawn Crawford, Peggy DeBey, Brett Halderman, Randall Hardy, Rachel Loersch, Gayle McMillen, Linda Moore, Cheri Parr, Linda Smith and Ted Zerger. Staff Present: Susan Hawksworth, John Highkin, Glenda Johnson, Nona Miller, Josh Morris and Karla Prickett. Also in attendance: April Middleton, Salina Journal. Absent: Luci Larson and John K. Vanier II. Staff Absent: Sharon Benson, Kathy Burlew, Carrie Carpenter and Brigid Hall.

Smith called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

**Focus Time**

Highkin introduced Phyll Klima, Director of Salina Downtown, Inc. (SDI) for the past six months. Klima said that in approaching economic development for downtown, she sees art as a vital element. She would like to see Salina encourage working artists to move here (similar to the program in Paducah, KY).

Klima said that there has been a 20 year effort to create a vibrant downtown for Salina. She likes to think in terms of opportunities rather than problems. She said that what the PUMA study refers to as *The Mill District* is ripe for economic development. She specifically referred to the recently vacated McCune Paper Building as an important asset. Hope for development in this area needs to incorporate the arts. Phyll is excited to work with SAHC staff and to participate in planning process. She reminded Commissioners that the PUMA plan of 2002 drives planning for Downtown Inc. There are 60-65 points of concern and development. Of those, 15 have SDI as lead agency, and the rest attributed to the City. The plan is owned by the entire community. There will be a 5-year review of PUMA in 2007, asking where we want to go, what we want to see? She has hope for continued relationship with SAHC in working to build bridges between organizations.

Benyshek appreciated Klima's comments at the January 8<sup>th</sup> City Commission meeting regarding Cultural Planning.

Klima – it's important that our board and constituency understand that arts can be a vital part of economic development.

Smith – 2007 greetings to all – lots of important work to accomplish in the New Year.

**Minutes**

Loersch: Museum update - Susan visited with Pauline on phone while on medical leave, not in hospital. Clarification on the November 15, 2006 minutes - Pauline visited Susan at the Museum to discuss her return from her medical leave.

McMillan motioned to accept the November 15, 2006 minutes and Benyshek seconded. Motion passed.

### **Staff Reports**

Highkin reported that several staff members were not in attendance. Highkin asked if his emailed weekly updates are informative. The reply was yes.

### **Museum Update**

Highkin introduced the two new Smoky Hill Museum staff members: Nona Miller, Education Coordinator and Josh Morris, Curator of Exhibits. Miller started today. Her background is in marketing and communications as well as has college level teaching and curriculum development. She worked for the City of Wichita (City Arts) with John D'Angelo, working with artists and events including the Wichita River Festival; she taught and did grant writing for a program providing 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> grade level experiences in visual arts activities. Miller also worked in the City Arts facility.

Josh Morris moved here from Colorado. He has a Masters of Fine Arts (M.F.A.) from University of Florida in set design. He has worked in regional theaters, trade shows, sculpting, and graphic art – a well rounded artist. He grew up in Salina and wanted to return. His training in space manipulation, graphic design, etc., is very exciting and a good fit for the exhibits position.

Hawksworth – the Tool exhibit is to open in early March. Highkin – pleased to have both on staff and have full staff for Museum – helps create a new momentum for positive change at the Museum.

Benyshek: She noticed that students do not know what a curator does. Suggested that the Museum could take Morris to schools and explain to students some of the things a curator does. Then, when they come to museum they will know what is done with items in the museum and about the care and preparation of exhibit items – this might encourage students coming to museum – and encourage new understanding.

Hawksworth – have done some exhibits on what staff does but haven't taken the program out to schools. Miller: will work to identify what the needs are now that the gallery renovation is complete.

Hardy: A fan of compelling the public to stop at the Museum (“need to stop”) when they drive by. Mentioned that the Spencer Museum in Lawrence has taken “spill outside” approach, doing work outside – Lawrence at work is featured artists and artisans doing things outside museum or a display. Useful to do advertising which catches people where they are.

Hawksworth: We have done that in the past such as the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Festival – added things at Mall and displays in downtown windows. It has been successful in the past. Hardy: More than one way to make the museum accessible. Santa Fe Day and Grand Opening (The Big Debut) brought people in.

Morris: Once back on track with next exhibit, we can think about branching out and also gear toward the Salina Sesquicentennial.

Hawksworth: Possible to create traveling exhibits like the George Jerkovich exhibit, similar to traveling exhibits developed by the Kauffman Museum in Newton.

Hawksworth: Lisa Upshaw wanted to send thanks to Benyshek and Zerger for helping with the MLK celebration. Benson worked hard to bring musician, Lemuel Shepherd. People showed up even in bad weather. Zerger: Upshaw did a tremendous job, excellent, worked very hard. Benyshek thanked Highkin for sound system.

Hawksworth: Upshaw will chair again next year – a two year commitment.

On Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 p.m. the Kansas Day celebration will take place in the Museum.

Smith: Introductions of Commissioners to Museum Staff

### **Strategic Planning and Cultural Assessment**

Smith: The Strategic Planning and Cultural Assessment is off and running. Thanks to all who attended City Commission meeting about the consultant contract, which is now complete. Diane Mataraza has been hired as the consultant and her first visit is scheduled for February 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>. May ask for assistance with some of the visits. Highkin: Diane wants to meet with all SAHC Commissioners not on the Steering Committee on Thursday, February 8<sup>th</sup> 11:45 – 1:00 p.m. A reception will be held on Wednesday, February 7<sup>th</sup> in the Museum lobby after the Steering Committee meets with Mataraza. More details to come.

Highkin: working on creating the Steering Committee. Burlew and Highkin are scheduling meetings with artists, City officials, cultural organizations. Mataraza will undertake a geodemographic study – collate databases from six largest organizations to get a sense of geographic reach. The six largest organizations will be SAHC/Museum, Stiefel, Community Access Television, Salina Community Theatre, Salina Art Center, and the Salina Public Library. During Mataraza's visit we hope to get her to some of the City's industries.

Benyshek: ask to send timeline around to all of us as to where and what is going on.

Highkin: as soon as the schedule has been finalized it will be shared with all.

### **Horizons**

Smith: Horizons – Final Reports for the following were reviewed.

- a. The Land Institute Final Report - Grant # 06-02-22
- b. Judd Patterson – Artist Award Grant # 06-05-126
- c. Dale Cole – Developing Artist Grant # 05-01-127

Smith: Letter from KWU – any more explanation than in letter? Highkin: No, Dr. Kerstetter pretty clear on it. The grant work has been more KWU-centered than on the collaboration between KWU and Community Access. A considerate letter, which shows appreciation for the Commission's support during the past two years in redoing Fine Art Computer abilities.

Smith: why are they declining third year of grant? Highkin: due mostly to change in Access situation.

The Horizons Grant Review session for organizations will be Monday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 3:45 p.m.

Crawford gave an overview of the January 16, 2007 Horizons Committee meeting. Discussed many things:

- renewals coming up for Horizons members
- possibility of changing levels beyond \$500, maybe someone would like to invest more and some less (assess levels).
- next round of artist awards due date April 1 and begin on May 1
- more events involving Horizons members such as event at Marymount, more connection to program for members

Highkin: Next year is a major one for Horizons renewals – every third year 2/3 of the members are up for renewal. Last time we had the major renewal year we held a large event at Rolling Hills. We try to bring together as many members as possible - heavy recruiting and an event to present what we do and the extent of the programming, etc. Keep this on your calendars.

### **Community Art & Design Update**

Highkin: Prickett and Highkin working very hard on preparing the CAD policy for the February 5<sup>th</sup> City Commission meeting. Gail Goldman, San Diego, is assisting in creating a summary policy from the larger more detailed Implementation Guidelines. We have been keeping in touch with past members of CAD Advisory Committee and new committee members. We plan to create a new CAD Advisory Committee with the transition created with the new policy development.

Highkin: There is a specific mandated profile for the CAD Advisory Committee membership per the policy and guidelines.

Highkin has scheduled Porter Arneil, Director of Public Art Program in Kansas City, MO to speak at Rotary on February 5<sup>th</sup> and then later in the month Highkin has invited Llewellyn Crane, new Executive Director of the Kansas Arts Commission. It will be a privilege to have Goldman and Arneil here on the same day. Goldman will be here Feb 4-6 to work specifically on CAD policy development.

**Other**

Highkin: due to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in November being the day before Thanksgiving, staff would like to propose moving this meeting to Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. Moore motioned to move the meeting to November 28<sup>th</sup> and Loersch seconded. Motion passed.

Highkin: Creating a proclamation honoring Richard Bergen next Monday at City Commission @ 4pm. "January 26, 2007 Richard Bergen Day in Salina". Ceremony in Topeka on Jan 26. Encourage all to visit the Bergen Studio on First Thursday of February. Smith called for a motion to send a statement of acknowledgement for the recognition. Benyshek moved Hardy seconded. The SAHC resolution will read:

*Salina Arts & Humanities Commission acknowledges honors and appreciates your contribution to Salina culture! Congratulations and well done!*

Hardy motioned to adjourn the meeting and DeBey seconded. Motion passed

Smith adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

/kp